110TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 6970

To authorize a comprehensive program of nationwide access to Federal remote sensing data, to promote its use for education, workforce training and development, applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Mr. Regula (for himself and Ms. Herseth Sandlin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize a comprehensive program of nationwide access to Federal remote sensing data, to promote its use for education, workforce training and development, applied research, and to support Federal, State, tribal, and local government programs.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "AmericaView Author-
- 5 ization Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:

- (1) When Federal remote sensing data is avail-1 2 able in a cost-effective and timely manner, State and 3 local governments and educational institutions are able to develop new scientific, educational, and practical applications for the data and to adopt new tools 6 for applied research, education, and training, as evi-7 denced by the success of the United States Geologi-8 cal Survey pilot projects, OhioView and Gateway to Earth. 9
 - (2) Increased access to remote sensing data through State data archives benefits user communities that have traditionally struggled to afford the data as follows:
 - (A) Educators train college students for technology careers in remote sensing and train teachers that remote sensing data can enhance student learning in elementary and secondary education.
 - (B) Historically black colleges and universities partner with StateView universities to enhance learning and training opportunities for its students.
 - (C) Native Americans provide training and education in the use and application of remote sensing data for Native American students and

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1	developing satellite-based applications for man-
2	aging reservation resources.
3	(3) Universities and State and local government
4	agencies use remote sensing data to support prac-
5	tical purposes, including—
6	(A) monitoring the health of national lands
7	and forests;
8	(B) monitoring crop progress, assessing
9	damage, and predicting crop yield;
10	(C) assisting with transportation and land-
11	use planning in the urban areas of the Nation;
12	(D) predicting and assisting with the man-
13	agement of human disease outbreaks; and
14	(E) assessing and managing natural disas-
15	ters.
16	(4) The AmericaView program is uniquely posi-
17	tioned to help each State address remote sensing
18	data infrastructure issues and to expand the use and
19	benefits of remote sensing data to each State.
20	SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.
21	As used in this Act:
22	(1) Americaview program.—The term
23	"AmericaView program" means the national
24	AmericaView program of the USGS, comprised of
25	the AmericaView project and AmericaView.

- 1 (2) AMERICAVIEW PROJECT.—The term
 2 "AmericaView project" means the USGS data ar3 chive, development, maintenance, and product dis4 tribution program conducted at the EROS Data
 5 Center.
 - (3) AMERICAVIEW.—The term "AmericaView" means the national nonprofit collaboration of StateView participants cooperating with the EROS Data Center to achieve the purposes of the AmericaView program.
 - (4) Educational institution" means any public or private elementary or secondary school, vocational school, correspondence school, business school, college (including a junior college and teachers' college) normal school, professional school, university, or scientific or technical institution, or any other institution that furnishes education.
 - (5) EROS DATA CENTER.—The term "EROS Data Center" means the data management, systems development, and research field center of the USGS.
 - (6) NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUC-TURE.—The term "national spatial data infrastructure" means the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process,

store, distribute, and improve utilization of geospatial data for the Nation, established by Executive Order 12906, dated April 11, 1994 ("Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The

National Spatial Data Infrastructure").

- (7) Remote sensing data.—The term "remote sensing data" means all information acquired from above the surface of the Earth by satellite or airplane.
 - (8) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the USGS.
 - (9) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
 - (10) Stateview.—The term "StateView" means the AmericaView program of an individual State, comprised of educational institutions and State and local governments.
- (11) USGS.—The term "USGS" means the
 United States Geological Survey.

1 SEC. 4. AMERICAVIEW PROGRAM.

2	(a) In General.—The Secretary shall maintain a
3	nationwide program to advance the availability, timely dis-
4	tribution, and widespread use of remote sensing data and
5	technology in each State.
6	(b) Purposes.—The purposes of the AmericaView
7	program are to—
8	(1) increase accessibility and expand the use of
9	remote sensing data in a standard, easy-to-use for-
10	mat to Federal, State, local and tribal governments,
11	communities, educational institutions, and the com-
12	mercial sector;
13	(2) assist each State in establishing the infra-
14	structure necessary to archive and distribute remote
15	sensing data;
16	(3) ensure that the National Satellite Land Re-
17	mote Sensing Data Archive of the USGS and State
18	remote sensing data archives support and comply
19	with other Federal programs related to national data
20	infrastructure, homeland security, and national de-
21	fense; and
22	(4) provide remote sensing data to the national
23	spatial data infrastructure.
24	(c) Activities.—
25	(1) Americaview project.—The Secretary,

through the AmericaView project, shall support the

1	remote sensing data research and educational pro-
2	grams of each State by cooperating with the States
3	to identify new remote sensing data needs and infra-
4	structure and to define, consolidate, and maintain
5	its data requirements.
6	(2) AMERICAVIEW.—The Secretary, through the
7	AmericaView program, shall maintain AmericaView
8	in each State to—
9	(A) share and cooperate in the develop-
10	ment of a freely and publicly accessible remote
11	sensing data archive and distribution infra-
12	structure;
13	(B) cooperate with the AmericaView
14	project to develop nationally consistent stand-
15	ards for remote sensing data archives in the
16	State;
17	(C) expand the number of remote sensing
18	data courses taught at educational institutions,
19	and provide training, remote sensing data, and
20	teaching tools to educators;
21	(D) expand remote sensing data research
22	at research educational institutions;
23	(E) expand the knowledge and use of re-
24	mote sensing data and data products in the

1	current workforce through outreach programs,
2	workshops, and other training opportunities;
3	(F) build partnerships with local govern-
4	ments to identify unique research and develop-
5	ment needs and foster remote sensing pilot
6	projects;
7	(G) promote cooperation and sharing of ex-
8	pertise about remote sensing data among the
9	participating State and within each partici-
10	pating State; and
11	(H) enable the States to provide remote
12	sensing data to the EROS Data Center.
13	(3) Grants.—The Secretary shall annually
14	award grants to sustain and develop StateView pro-
15	grams.
16	(4) Federal Partner advisory com-
17	MITTEE.—
18	(A) In General.—The Secretary shall
19	maintain an advisory committee to advise the
20	Director of the USGS about the AmericaView
21	program.
22	(B) Membership and appointment.—
23	The committee shall consist of a representative
24	from AmericaView, the USGS, the Department

- of Agriculture, and a representative of such
- 2 other agencies as the Director may designate.

3 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 4 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
- 5 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
- 6 Act for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

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